



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

ROUND ONE

January 2020

2 Hours

PROBLEM BOOK

***Answer as many of the questions as you can.
Follow the instructions if completing this online, or else
write your answers in the answer books provided.***

Questions and credits

A.	Lomongo	Kevin Laird	15 points
B.	Stressed out in the Caribbean	Harold Somers	20 points
C.	Idalion tablet	Michael Salter	15 points
D.	Kolyma Yukagir	Kobayashi Tsuyoshi	25 points
E.	A cat in a hat	Aleka Blackwell	25 points



Engaging Content
Engaging People



Question A: Lomongo

15 points

Mongo (also known as Nkundo or Lomongo) is a Bantu language spoken by the Mongo peoples of the central Democratic Republic of the Congo. Presently, there are around 400,000 native speakers spread out over a large area around the Congo River.

Below is a table showing some verb forms in Mongo. The English meanings are given for your information, but do not contribute to the solution. The letter ‘j’ represents a consonant, as in English.

<i>imperative</i>	<i>2nd sg. (you)</i>	<i>3rd sg. (he/she)</i>	<i>3rd pl. (they)</i>	<i>English</i>
bota	oota	aota	baota	‘cause’
kamba	okamba	akamba	bakamba	‘work’
imeja	wimeja	imeja	bimeja	‘consent’
usa	wusa	usa	busa	‘throw’
bata	oata	aata	baata	‘get’
ena	wena	ena	beno	‘see’
isa	wisa	isa	bisa	‘hide’
jila	ojila	ajila	bajila	‘wait’
ina	wina	ina	bina	‘hate’
bina	oina	aina	baina	‘dance’
asa	wasa	asa	basa	‘search’
sanga	osanga	asanga	basanga	‘say’

Fill in the blanks in the chart below.

<i>imperative</i>	<i>2nd sg. (you)</i>	<i>3rd sg. (he/she)</i>	<i>3rd pl. (they)</i>	<i>English</i>
bakisa	(1)	(2)	(3)	‘add’
(4)	wanda	(5)	(6)	‘begin’
solola	(7)	(8)	basolola	‘chat’
ponama	(9)	aponama	(10)	‘elect’
(11)	oowa	(12)	(13)	‘cure’
(14)	(15)	aalusa	(16)	‘turn’
longa	(17)	(18)	(19)	‘win’

Question B: Stressed out in the Caribbean 20 pts

Papiamentu is a Portuguese creole with many words taken from other European, African and local languages, spoken in the Netherlands Antilles, and recognised there as one of the official languages in Curaçao and Aruba.

In the list of words below, the stressed syllable is underlined, and the number indicates which syllable is stressed, for example '2' means the 2nd syllable is stressed. Where there is no underlining, and the number 0 is showing, the stress is even.

<u>ap</u> el	2	apple	<u>kar</u> son	2	trousers
aw <u>e</u> ro	3	to see	kome	0	to eat
<u>bè</u> rdè	1	green	<u>ma</u> kamba	2	white man
<u>bò</u> ter	2	bottle	<u>re</u> tené	3	to hold back
bu <u>r</u> iku	2	donkey	sinta	0	to sit
falta	0	to lack	<u>so</u> mbré	1	hat
<u>hos</u> pital	3	hospital	<u>yong</u> otá	3	to kneel
<u>kach</u> ó	1	dog			

For each of the following words, indicate where the stress lies by writing the appropriate number. If there is even stress, put a 0.

a	barbulèt	<input type="text"/>	butterfly	b	barbulètè	<input type="text"/>	butterfly	c	buki	<input type="text"/>	book
d	chògògò	<input type="text"/>	flamingo	e	còrá	<input type="text"/>	red	f	descansá	<input type="text"/>	to rest
g	encargá	<input type="text"/>	to blame	h	hòmber	<input type="text"/>	man	i	investigá	<input type="text"/>	to investigate
j	kamna	<input type="text"/>	to walk	k	keshi	<input type="text"/>	cheese	l	kontestá	<input type="text"/>	to answer
m	kòrda	<input type="text"/>	to remember	n	kunuku	<input type="text"/>	farm	o	manteca	<input type="text"/>	butter
p	maribomba	<input type="text"/>	wasp	q	orkan	<input type="text"/>	hurricane	r	oyevar	<input type="text"/>	stork
s	pelican	<input type="text"/>	pelican	t	pretu	<input type="text"/>	black	u	primintí	<input type="text"/>	to promise
v	refresco	<input type="text"/>	soda	w	siudat	<input type="text"/>	city	x	skirbi	<input type="text"/>	to write
y	sòru	<input type="text"/>	to care	z	tribon	<input type="text"/>	shark				

Main sources: <http://www.narin.com/papiamentu/vocab.html>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papiamentu>

Question C: Idalion tablet

15 points

In 1850, a farmer from a village in Cyprus discovered a tablet dating from the 5th century BCE which recorded an endowment from the city of Idalion to a family of physicians during the Persian Wars. This document, now known as the Idalion Tablet, was of enormous importance for the decipherment of the Cypriot script in which it was written. The tablet is in the Cypriot dialect of ancient Greek.

On the following page is a portion of the inscription, with a transliteration.

Here is the English translation of this section of the text:

When the Medes and the Kitians subdued the city of Idalion in the year of Philokypros son of Onasagoras, King Stasikypros and the city of the Idalians instructed Onasion the son of Onasikypros the physician, and his brothers, to heal the men wounded in the battle, without a fee.

C2. What are the Cypriot Greek words for (a) *and*, (b) *king*, (c) *instructed*? You can write them either in transcription or in the Cypriot script (using ID numbers separated by commas if online)

C3. The symbol † (23) can be pronounced in three different ways. What are they?

Question D: Kolyma Yukaghir

25 points

Kolyma Yukaghir is a language once spoken in the far east of Russia, whose origin and relation to other languages is unknown. It is a dying language with only 5 fluent speakers in 2009. The language can be written in either the Cyrillic or Roman alphabets. Here are 12 sentences with their English translations.

1. met tudele inabulagī	I hated him
2. adil numeget towkele ket'īm	The boy came with a dog from home
3. tet metul juōmek	You (sg) saw me
4. tit abut ket'ītemet	You (pl) will bring a bag
5. terike t'olhorogeले miem	The old lady waited for the rabbit
6. tut numege mitkele mietem	He will wait for us at home
7. tut t'olhoro juōtem	He will see the rabbit
8. mit gōrakte tetul juōteј	We will see you (sg) in town
9. tet ahidūteјek	You (sg) will hide
10. met t'obulge jaraje	I swam in the sea
11. adil jarateј	The boy will swim
12. met titul el miele	I didn't wait for you (pl)

D1. Translate the following into English.

- (a) t'olhoro adilget el ahidūј
- (b) tet gōrakte t'obul juōtemek
- (c) terike numele inabulagīm
- (d) tut abutkele el ket'īteј

D2. Translate the following into Kolyma Yukaghir.

- (a) You (sg) swam in the sea
- (b) We will wait for the rabbit
- (c) The dog came with you (sg) from town
- (d) He will wait for the dog
- (e) You (sg) did not see us
- (f) You (pl) will hate the house

Question E: A cat in a hat

25 points

Below are 16 sentences in Chintang (an eastern Kiranti language spoken by 5,000 to 6,000 people in Chhintang and Ahale municipalities in Nepal) in phonetic transcription, and their English

translations, but in a different, random, order.

Pronunciation guide:

ʔ is a glottal stop, like the sound in ‘uh-oh’

ŋ is like ‘ng’ in ‘sing’

i is a vowel which sounds like ‘urgh’

ʌ is also a vowel, pronounced like the ‘u’ in ‘hum’

Other letters either have their expected values, or their exact sound does not matter here.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. cuwa uthurumbeʔ yuŋno | A. There is a hole in the towel. |
| 2. appa chintaŋbeʔ yuŋno | B. The woman has gone away. |
| 3. sencak sie | C. The rice has been cooked. |
| 4. wapaŋa topi wadaŋse | D. There is a hat on the head. |
| 5. kok thuktanʃe | E. My mother-in-law slept. |
| 6. ram hariniŋ khoŋno | F. You go to the market. |
| 7. kʌp kedadaŋse | G. The water is in his mouth. |
| 8. taŋbeʔ topi yuŋno | H. Joge sent a letter. |
| 9. menwaŋa sencak sede | I. The mouse died. |
| 10. tawelbeʔ uhoŋ yuŋno | J. The woman has bought a chicken. |
| 11. anambaŋa cuwa thuŋno | K. The cup has been broken. |
| 12. mechacha khadaŋse | L. My father is in Chintang. |
| 13. jogeŋa citthi hakte | M. The cockerel has put on a hat. |
| 14. anamma imse | N. A cat killed a mouse. |
| 15. hana bajar akhaʔno | O. Ram plays with Hari. |
| 16. mechachaŋa wa khedoŋse | P. My father-in-law drinks water. |

E1. Match the Chintang sentences (1-16) with their corresponding English translations (A-P).

E2. Translate into Chintang.

- (a) There is a cat in a hat
- (b) Joge plays with a chicken
- (c) My hen is in the market
- (d) parent-in-law

E3. Translate into English.

- (a) athurumbeʔ kok yuŋno
- (b) appa khade
- (c) anamma ammaniŋ yuŋno

The data in this puzzle are drawn from Netra Prasad Paudyal’s dissertation *Aspects of Chintang Syntax* (University of Zurich, 2015) and Tyko Dirksmeyer’s MA thesis *Spatial Deixis in Chintang: Aspects of a Grammar of Space* (University of Leipzig, 2008).

END OF PAPER